

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 27 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,006,287 of Wakazu (“Wakazu”).

Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-20, 22-26, 28-33 and 35-39 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Response to § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 9, 14, 16, 22 and 27 have been amended. Claims 2, 8, 15, 21, 28 and 34 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which has an effect of rewriting claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 1, as amended, and its dependent claims 3 -7 and 9-13 are patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, which has an effect of rewriting claim 15 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 14, as amended, and its dependent claims 16-20 and 22-26 are patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 28, which has an effect of rewriting claim 28 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim

and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 27, as amended, and its dependent claims 29-33 and 35-39 are patentable and should be allowed.

3. **Conclusion**

Having tendered the above remarks and amended the claims as indicated herein, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections have been addressed and that the claims are now in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with this communication, please charge our deposit account no. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Elena Dreszer at (408) 947-8200 ext. 209.

Respectfully submitted,

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